U.S. Appln. No. 09/845,382
Reply to Office Action dated January 24, 2006

PATENT
450100-03199

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I.   STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 2-5, 8, 9, 11-14, 17, 18, 20-23, 26, 27, 29-32, and 35-37, which are pending in this application, are hereby amended. Claim 38 is added. Support for this amendment is provided throughout the specification. No new matter has been introduced by this amendment. It is submitted that these claims, as originally presented, were in full compliance with the requirements 35 U.S.C. §112. Changes to these claims, as presented herein, are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II.   REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 20, 22, 23, 26, 27, 29, 31, 32, and 35-37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,553 to Robertson, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,746 to Enokida, et al. and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,271,806 to Motoshima, et al.

Claims 3, 12, 21, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,553 to Robertson, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,335,746 to Enokida, et al. and U.S. Patent No. 6,271,806 to Motoshima, et al. and further in view of U.S. Pat. No. 5,761,655 to Hoffman.

III.   RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 2 recites, *inter alia*:

"…dividing a specific display area of a display apparatus into a plurality of areas as a function of a size of desired non-image data;

generating image data that is related to the desired non-image data and comprises the plurality of areas divided, by setting a pixel data for each of the plurality of areas based on the non-image data;

displaying the image generated."(emphasis added)

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Pat. No. 6,160,553 to Robertson, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Robertson") relates to a graphical user interface in which object thumbnails are rendered on a simulated three-dimensional surface which exploits spatial memory and allows more objects to be rendered on a given screen. The objects may be moved, continuously, on the surface with a two-dimensional input device.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,335,746 to Enokida, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Enokida") relates to a file system that has a hierarchical tree structure in which directories and files are placed under another directory. The data of one image is assigned to one file and a group of image data is assigned a common directory name.

As understood by Applicants, U.S. Patent No. 6,271,806 to Motoshima, et al. (hereinafter, merely "Motoshima") relates to a display system that sets virtual units on a screen

display section constructed with nine display units and repeatedly splits the screen into four

portions, which allocates virtual addresses, each expressed with a binary value, to each split

level.

Applicants submit that Robertson refers to visually representing images on three-

dimensional landscape and the thumbnails representing webpages, but does not give any

description on the correspondence between each divided area of the thumbnail and the content of

the data the divided images represent. Further, both Enokida and Motoshima fail to disclose that

a single thumbnail is divided into areas and the areas correspond to the content of the data.

Applicants respectfully submit that nothing has been found in Robertson,

Enokida, or Motoshima, taken alone or in combination, that would teach or suggest the above-

identified feature of independent claim 2. Specifically, Applicants submit that Robertson,

Enokida, and Motoshima fail to disclose or suggest dividing a specific display area of a display

apparatus into a plurality of areas as a function of a size of desired non-image data, generating

image data that is related to the desired non-image data and comprises the plurality of areas

divided, by setting a pixel data for each of the plurality of areas based on the non-image data;

and displaying the image generated, as recited in claim 2.

Therefore, independent claim 2 is patentable.

For reasons similar to those described above with regard to amended independent

claim 2, amended independent claims 4, 9, 11, 13, 18, 20, 22, 27, 29, 31, 36, and 38 are

patentable.

IV. DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for at least the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual reconsideration of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.
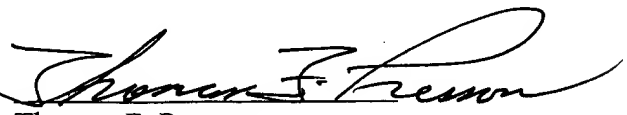
CONCLUSION

In the event the Examiner disagrees with any of statements appearing above with respect to the disclosures in the cited references, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner specifically indicate those portions of the reference, or references, providing the basis for the contrary view.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that all of the claims in this application are patentable and Applicants respectfully request early passage to issue of the present application.

Please charge any fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Respectfully submitted,
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